

INSIDE TODAY WORLD NEWS

AVERT SANCTIONS



Iranian Minister of Foreign Affairs Manouchehr Mottaki addresses journalists during a press conference in Sarajevo, Bosnia, Monday, April 26, 2010. The Iranian foreign minister has arrived in Sarajevo for talks with Bosnian leaders as part of a campaign to avert another round of U.N. sanctions.

Read more on Page A7

SPORTS NEWS

LOS SUNS RISE



Phoenix Suns forward Amare Stoudemire wears a "Los Suns" jersey during the first quarter of Game 2 of an NBA second-round playoff basketball series against the San Antonio Spurs Wednesday, May 5, 2010, in Phoenix. The Suns wore "Los Suns" on their jerseys, owner Robert Sarver said, "to honor our Latino community and the diversity of our league, the state of Arizona, and our nation."

Read more on Page A14

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Passenger surrenders after NH bus bomb scare

By KATHY McCORMACK
Associated Press Writer
PORTSMOUTH, N.H. — A nine-hour bomb scare aboard a Maine-to-New York Greyhound bus ended peacefully Thursday night when the lone remaining passenger walked off it with his hands over his head. The other 16 passengers and the driver had left the bus safely hours earlier.

No details about the passenger were immediately released, and the bus remained parked in downtown Portsmouth with a bomb squad on the scene.

"He is in custody," police Capt. Mike Schwartz said. "No one is injured."

Continued on Page 5



A hostage, right, is released during a bomb threat aboard a bus which cleared much of downtown Portsmouth, N.H., Thursday, May 6, 2010.

Associated Press

UK exit polls: Tories Win most seats, not majority as hoped

DANICA KIRKA
PAISLEY DODDS
Associated Press Writers

LONDON (AP) — The Conservatives captured the largest number of seats and the ruling Labour Party suffered substantial losses Thursday in Britain's national election, according to television projections based on exit polls.

The projected result did not bode well for Prime Minister Gordon Brown, Britain's prime minister since 2007, and triggered widespread uncertainty over who will form the next government. The country's top three parties — the Conservatives, Labour and the Liberal Democrats — immediately began jockeying for position in possible coalition.

Frustrated voters, meanwhile, said they were turned away from polling stations and some stations appeared overwhelmed by late voter turnout — a sign of the intense interest in this election.

An analysis by Britain's main television networks suggested



The first ballot box, is seen being emptied for the official's to count in the General Election at Kirkcaldy, Scotland, Thursday, May 6, 2010.

Associated Press

David Cameron's Conservative party will win 305 House of Commons seats, short of the 326 seats needed for a majority. The projections also showed a substantial drop for Brown's ruling Labor Party, giving it 255 seats — its smallest number since 1987.

Continued on Page 6

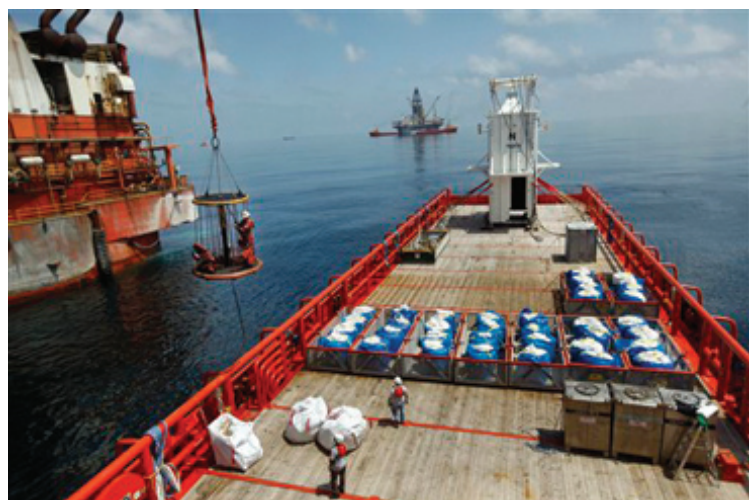
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BP brings in the big box to deal with oil disaster



A worker is carried in a personnel basket from the Q4000 to the Joe Griffin in preparation to lower the containment vessel, seen on deck in background, over the oil leak at the site of the Deepwater Horizon rig collapse, Thursday, May 6, 2010.

HARRY R. WEBER
TAMARA LUSH

Associated Press Writers
ON THE GULF OF MEXICO
(AP) — Workers gathered

to begin lowering a giant concrete-and-steel box over the blown-out oil well at the bottom of the sea Thursday in a risky and untested bid to

Associated Press

capture most of the gushing crude and avert a wider environmental disaster.

“We haven’t done this before. It’s very complex and we can’t guarantee it,” BP spokesman David Nicholas warned.

The 100-ton containment vessel is designed to collect as much as 85 percent of the oil spewing into the Gulf and funnel it up to a tanker. It could take several hours to lower it into place by crane, after which a steel pipe will be installed between the top of the box and the tanker. The whole structure could be operating by Sunday.

The mission took on added urgency as oil started washing up on delicate barrier islands. The technology has been used a few times in shallow waters,

but never at such extreme depths — 5,000 feet down, where the water pressure is enough to crush a submarine. The box — which looks a lot like a peaked, 40-foot-high outhouse, especially on the inside, with its rough timber framing — must be accurately positioned over the well, or it could damage the leaking pipe and make the problem worse. BP spokesman Doug Suttles said he is not concerned about that happening. Underwater robots have been clearing pieces of pipe and other debris near where the box will be placed to avoid complications.

“We do not believe it could make things worse,” he said. Other risks include ice clogs in the pipes — a problem that crews will try to prevent by continuously pumping in warm water and methanol — and the danger of explosion when separating the mix of oil, gas and water that is brought to the surface.

“I’m worried about every part, as you can imagine,” said David Clarkson, BP vice president of engineering projects.

If the box works, a second one now being built may be used to deal with a second, smaller leak from the sea floor.

“Hopefully, it will work better than they expect,” first mate Douglas Peake told The Associated Press aboard the ship that brought the box to the site. The AP is the only news organization on board the vessel.

The well blew open on April 20 when the Deepwater Horizon drilling platform exploded 50 miles out in the Gulf of Mexico, killing 11 workers. It has been spewing an estimated 200,000 gallons a day in the nation’s biggest oil spill since the Exxon Valdez disaster in Alaska in 1989.

Interior Secretary Ken Salazar on Thursday halted all new offshore drilling permits nationwide until at least the end of the month while the government investigates the Gulf spill.

Oil slicks stretched for miles off the Louisiana coast, where

desperate efforts were under way to skim, corral and set the petroleum ablaze. People in Mississippi, Alabama and Florida watched in despair.

The dropping of the box is just one of many strategies being pursued to stave off a widespread environmental disaster. BP is drilling sideways into the blown-out well in hopes of plugging it from the bottom. Also, oil company engineers are examining whether the leak could be shut off by sealing it from the top instead.

The technique, called a “top kill,” would use a tube to shoot mud and concrete directly into the well’s blowout preventer, BP spokesman Bill Salvin said. The process would take two to three weeks, compared with the two to three months needed to drill a relief well.

On Thursday, oil reached several barrier islands off the Louisiana coast, many of them fragile animal habitats. Several birds were spotted diving into the oily, pinkish-brown water, and dead jellyfish washed up on the uninhabited islands.

“It’s all over the place. We hope to get it cleaned up before it moves up the west side of the river,” said Dustin Chauvin, a 20-year-old shrimp boat captain. “That’s our whole fishing ground. That’s our livelihood.”

During a visit to Biloxi, Mississippi, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano said of the containment vessel: “I hope it works.”

But we are still proceeding as if it won’t. If it does, of course, that will be a major positive development.”

“We are facing an evolving situation,” she warned. “The possibility remains that the BP oil spill could turn into an unprecedented environmental disaster. The possibility remains that it will be somewhat less.”

Meanwhile, a six-member board composed of representatives of the Coast Guard and the federal Minerals Management Service will begin investigating the accident next week. □

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Ex-NFL star Lawrence Taylor charged with NY rape

JIM FITZGERALD

Associated Press Writer

SUFFERN, New York (AP) — Pro Football Hall of Famer Lawrence Taylor was charged Thursday with raping a 16-year-old runaway in an encounter that police said was arranged by a man who beat her up before driving her to Taylor's suburban hotel room while she texted her uncle for help.

Taylor, the 51-year-old former New York Giant who has faced drug and tax evasion charges in the past, paid the girl \$300 for sex in a Holiday Inn, where he was arrested early Thursday, said Christopher St.

Lawrence, supervisor of the town of Ramapo.

Ramapo Chief of Police Peter Brower said Taylor was cooperative when police woke him up around 4 a.m. Taylor was arraigned Thursday on charges of third-degree rape and patronizing a prostitute.

"I'm not that important," Taylor told a scrum of media after being released on \$75,000 bail.

His attorney, Arthur Aidala, said Taylor is a "loving family man" who did not have sex with the teenager.

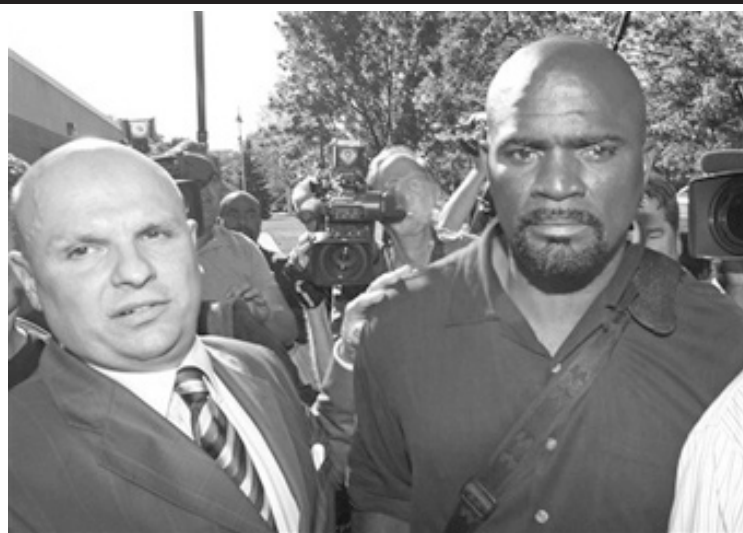
"My client did not have sex with anybody," Aidala said. "Lawrence Taylor did not rape

Pro Football Hall of Famer Lawrence Taylor, right, and his attorney Arthur Idala, left, leave the Ramapo Police Department where he was arraigned on charges of third-degree rape and patronizing a prostitute at a nearby hotel in Suffern, N.Y., Thursday, May 6, 2010.

Associated Press

anybody."

Brower would not comment on whether Taylor knew the girl's age; third-degree rape is a charge levied when the victim is under the age of consent, which is 17 in New York. □



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Brunch Entrees

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Home renovators alert: House passes Caulkers bill



From left, Rep. Edward Markey, D-Mass., Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif., and Rep. Peter Welch, D-Vt., hold a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, May 6, 2010, to discuss the Home Star Energy Retrofit Act.

Associated Press

JIM ABRAMS

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Homeowners could collect thousands of dollars in Cash for Caulkers rebates for renovating their homes with better insulation and energy-saving windows and doors under a new economic stimulus bill the House of Representatives passed Thursday.

The Home Star bill, passed 246-161, would authorize \$6 billion over two years for a program that supporters — mostly Democrats — said would have the added benefits of invigorating the slumping construction industry and making the earth a little cleaner.

“Home Star is that solid investment that’s going to achieve that hat trick of energy savings for the homeowner, of moving toward a cleaner environment and of creating jobs here at home,” said bill sponsor Peter Welch, a Democrat. Republicans overwhelmingly opposed the bill, and they were able to attach a condition that it would be terminated if Democrats do not come up with a way to pay for it.

The measure has come to be dubbed Cash for Caulkers, a takeoff on the popular 2009 Cash for Clunkers initiative that rewarded people for replacing gas-guzzling vehicles with more fuel-efficient models.

Cault is a waterproof sealant and fill. A clunker is an old car or truck.

President Barack Obama has promoted the bill, which also needs Senate approval.

The initiative is separate from an energy tax credit of up to \$1,500 that was included in last year’s economic stimulus act. That credit for energy efficiency improvements runs through the end of this year.

Supporters estimate that 3 million households would make use of the new program, saving \$9.2 billion in energy costs over a 10-year period. They said it would create 168,000 jobs, mainly in the recession-hit construction industry.

“Nearly one in four workers in the home construction and services industry has been laid off,” said Energy and Commerce Committee chairman Henry Waxman, a Democrat. “Passing Home Star says, ‘Help is on the way.’”

Republicans were more skeptical, saying the price tag was too high at a time of mounting federal debts. □



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BOMB THREAT

Continued from Front Page

The ordeal began around 11:30 a.m. Thursday when a passenger called 911 to report an explosive device on board, leading police to evacuate buildings and streets and call the passengers out under the watch of a sharpshooter in an armored vehicle. One man remained on board and did not walk out until just before 9 p.m.

The man, wearing camouflage pants without a shirt, stepped off the bus with his hands high over his head. He then went to his knees before soon getting up and appearing to follow orders from police to walk away from the bus.

Throughout the day, police kept the curious at a distance and gave little information of what was happening on the bus.

They said they established a way to communicate with the remaining passenger but wouldn't give details of that communication.

Family members of some passengers who gathered at the Portsmouth police station said their relatives did not feel threatened aboard the bus; several said the passengers were confused and more frightened by the police response.

The 911 call came after the bus arrived in the seaside city of Portsmouth and was "based on someone's observations," Schwartz said. He had not heard of any threat being made.

The driver "received a report of suspicious activity" while making the routine stop on the trip from Bangor to New York City and followed his training to secure the bus and notify police, Greyhound spokeswoman Maureen Richmond said.

The driver parked the bus and got out, but the passengers remained on board for more than two hours while police surrounded it and cleared the area of people.

When they did leave, it was very slowly, separated by several minutes each. They carried no purses or bags, and most held their hands aloft as they passed officers with their weapons drawn.

Passengers were screened

individually when they got off the bus — much like an airport security check — and were taken to the police station to be interviewed. None appeared to be injured as they left the bus; Schwartz said one was taken to a hospital because of a medical condition.

Some passengers resumed their trip on a replacement bus just before 8 p.m., an hour after the original bus had been scheduled to arrive in New York. Others skipped the trip and were picked up.

Greyhound said it would

arrange to reunite passengers with their luggage and personal items they were forced to leave behind.

Joe Law, of Hudson, N.H., said he was walking toward his parked car when he saw the bus pull over. Law said the driver got off, ran to the back of the bus and pulled part of its back door down. He said the driver appeared to do something to disable the bus, then yelled, "get away from the bus," before running down the street. □



Bomb threat aboard bus clears much of downtown Portsmouth, N.H. on Thursday May 6, 2010.

Associated Press

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The leader of the Labour Party, Gordon Brown, left, and his wife Sarah, right, are seen arriving to the count at Kirkcaldy, Scotland, in the early hours of Friday, May 7, 2010.

UK EXIT POLL

Continued from Front Page
Nick Clegg's Liberal Democrats were seen as winning 61 seats — far less than had been expected. Smaller parties got 29 other seats.

The projection suggests that the Conservatives will gain 95 seats, Labour will lose 94 and the Liberal Democrats will lose one. If the vote does not give any party a majority, that could produce a destabilizing period

Associated Press

of political wrangling and uncertainty. Brown could resign if he feels the results have signaled he has lost his mandate to rule, or he could try to stay on as leader and seek a deal in which smaller parties would support him. "Let's see how it pans out. Gordon will know whether he should stay on or not," Labour Home Secretary Alan Johnson said. "I think Gordon deserves the dignity to look at these things and make up his own mind." Hard results began to trickle in about an hour after polls closed. The first seat to declare, Houghton and Sunderland South in northern England, was retained by Labour. Hundreds of British voters across the country claimed they were unable to vote because they were left still standing in long lines when

polls closed at 10 p.m. Police in London said they were called to a polling station in east London when about 50 angry voters denied the chance to cast their ballot staged a sit-in protest. Voters in Sheffield, Newcastle and elsewhere in London also complained that they had been denied a vote because of lines as polls closed. Theresa May, a senior Conservative Party lawmaker, said the exit poll result showed Labour's heaviest losses since 1931, and that the incumbent party had lost "the legitimacy to govern." But Labour's Business Secretary, Peter Mandelson, pointed out that the sitting prime minister is traditionally given the first chance to form a government. "The rules are that if it's a hung Parliament, it's not the party with the largest number of seats that has first go, it's the government," he said. "I have no problem in principle in trying to supply this country with a stable government." He extended an olive branch to the Liberal Democrats, who have called to end the first-past-the-post system, where the number of districts won — not the popular vote — determines who leads the

country. "There has to be electoral reform as a result of this election," Mandelson said. "First-past the-post is on its last legs." The results may yet change. Projecting elections based on exit polls is inherently risky — particularly in an exceptionally close election like this one. Polls are based on samples — in this case 18,000 respondents — and always have some margin of error. Britain's census is nine years out of date and the polling districts haven't caught up to population shifts. Many voters also refuse to respond to exit polls. Thousands have also already cast postal ballots but those results don't factor into the exit polls. About 12 percent cast postal ballots in 2005. The election result would be disastrous news for the Liberal Democrats, Britain's longtime third party, who enjoyed a big poll surge after the charismatic Clegg appeared in televised TV debates. Liberal Democrat deputy leader Vince Cable described the outcome of the exit poll as "very strange" and insisted they had been "horribly wrong" in the past. □

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Pakistani accused in Mumbai attacks gets death

ERIKA KINETZ

Associated Press Writer

MUMBAI, India (AP) — An Indian court sentenced the only surviving gunman from the 2008 Mumbai attacks to death, a punishment officials hoped would send a message to archrival Pakistan to stop future violence as fears about the global reach of militancy based on its soil grow.

Judge M.L. Tahaliyani gave Mohammed Ajmal Kasab multiple death sentences Thursday for murder, waging war against India, conspiracy and terrorism. He also handed down penalties for over two dozen other offenses ranging to life in prison.

“He shall be hanged by his neck until he is dead,” Tahaliyani said.

Kasab cried silently as he heard the penalties, his shoulders shaking as he hid his face with his hand. Guards helped him out of the courtroom briefly for a glass of water.

A photograph of Kasab, 22, striding through Mumbai’s main train station, an assault rifle in hand, became the iconic image of the three-day siege in November 2008 that claimed the lives of 166 people.

Kasab was one of 10 young Pakistanis who attacked two luxury hotels, a Jewish center and a busy train station in India’s financial capital. Millions watched the mayhem unfold live on television.

Kasab’s sentence must be reviewed by the High Court. He can also appeal the decision and apply for clemency to the state and central governments, although his lawyer said no decision had been made on whether to do so.

Such motions often keep convicts on death row for years, even decades.

India’s last execution — of a man convicted of the rape and murder of a schoolgirl — occurred in 2004.

Many convicts simply wait as bureaucratic disregard — some say deliberate neglect by politicians leery of capital punishment — effectively converts a death sentence into

life in prison.

In his verdict, the judge said Kasab volunteered for the Pakistan-based militant group Lashkar-e-Taiba, which provided training for the attack. He also said the evidence implicated at least 20 people — most of them still at large in Pakistan — in the conspiracy to wage war against India.

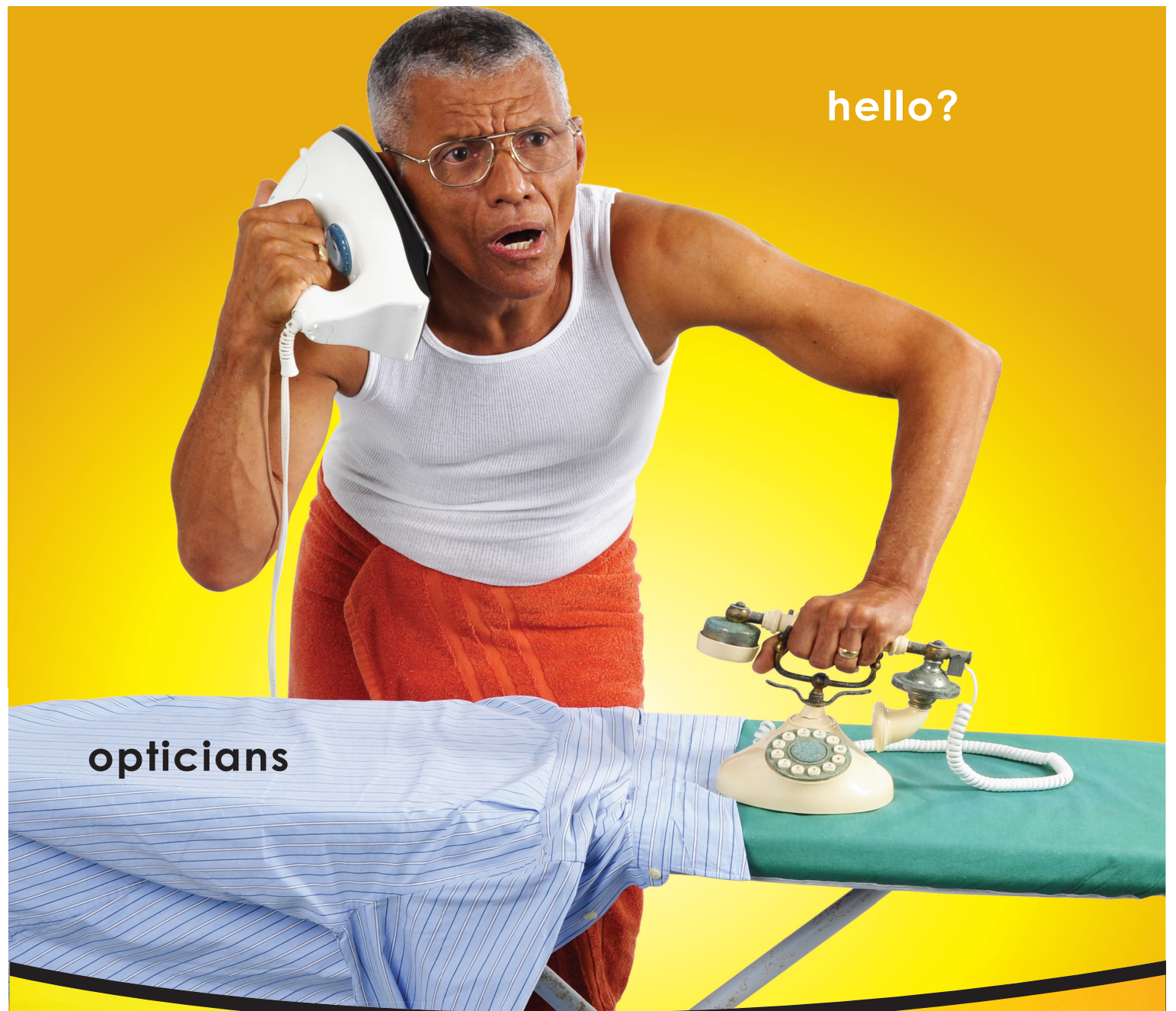
Those findings complicate recent efforts by the nuclear-armed neighbors to rekindle peace talks cut off after the attack.

Since the verdict, demands have grown within India for Pakistan to do more to root out homegrown terror groups, some of which operate openly under the protection of provincial governments. □



A shop owner looks at television screens broadcasting coverage on the death sentence of Pakistani Mohammed Ajmal Kasab, the only surviving gunman in the bloody 2008 Mumbai attacks, in Allahabad, India, Thursday, May 6, 2010.

Associated Press



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Iranians host dinner seeking to avert UN sanctions

JOHN HEILPRIN**Associated Press Writer****UNITED NATIONS (AP)** —

Iran's foreign minister invited the United States and other members of the U.N. Security Council to dinner Thursday night, his nation's latest high-profile attempt to avert more economic sanctions over its nuclear program.

Western diplomats called it a rare move for a visiting dignitary such as Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki to host a dinner for all the council's 15 member nations.

Diplomats in most cases said before the 2-hour dinner that they would be sending a senior official, not the top-ranking ambassador. However, many nations did indeed send their top-ranking ambassadors, some notable exceptions being the U.S., Britain, France and Russia.

The occasion served as one of the highest-ranking contacts in recent years between the U.S.

and Iran, which lack formal relations. Alejandro Wolff, the U.S. deputy ambassador to the U.N., was to attend.

A spokesman for Iran's U.N. mission, M. Bak Sahraei, told The Associated Press the dinner was being called "on the sidelines of (the) NPT review conference in New York."

A monthlong conference reviewing the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty is under way at the United Nations. The dinner coincided with Thursday's launch of a billboard campaign by an advocacy group, United Against Nuclear Iran, which put up images in Times Square and Grand Central Station arguing no venue in New York should host the Iranians. The group is led by a former U.S. representative for U.N. management and reform in the previous Bush administration. The U.S. and some of its allies have argued that another round of sanctions is necessary to stop Iran's nuclear program,

which they contend is aimed at producing a bomb. Iran says its program is for peaceful purposes.

Sahraei noted that Mottaki also "is holding several meetings with the heads of foreign delegations" on the sidelines of the NPT review conference, including nonaligned nations and Security Council member nations. Invited nations had said they expected the obvious: A continuation of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's offensive earlier this week against new economic and military sanctions.

Ahmadinejad, the only head of state to attend the NPT conference that opened at U.N. headquarters this past week, has been arguing that U.S.-Iran relations might never be repaired if new sanctions are imposed. He also has campaigned by paying visits to Security Council member countries such as China, Russia, Brazil and Uganda in recent months.

But a U.S. official, who described the dinner at Iran's U.N. Ambassador Mohammad Khazaee's residence as "unusual," said before the dinner began that Wolff would attend in hopes of hearing something new.

"We see it as an opportunity for Iran to show the council that they're prepared to play by the rules and meet their international obligations," said the U.S. official, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the diplomatic situation.

The council's five permanent members — the U.S., China, Russia, Britain and France — along with Germany have been holding talks on possible new sanctions against Iran for refusing to negotiate on its nuclear program.

Russia and China still hope diplomacy will lead Iran to the negotiating table, and have indicated they will only agree to much weaker measures if Tehran refuses.



Iranian Minister of Foreign Affairs Manouchehr Mottaki addresses journalists during a press conference in Sarajevo, Bosnia, Monday, April 26, 2010.

Associated Press

Lebanon's ambassador holds the council's rotating presidency this month. The council's other nonpermanent members are Austria, Bosnia, Brazil, Gabon, Japan, Mexico, Nigeria, Turkey and Uganda.



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New clashes in Greece after austerity bill passed

ELENA BECATOROS
Associated Press Writer

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Greek lawmakers have approved drastic austerity cuts needed to secure international rescue loans worth €110 billion (\$140 billion) and clashes briefly erupted in the streets outside parliament, forcing police to use tear gas. In New York, the Dow Jones industrials plunged 1,000 points in less than half an hour Thursday on fears that Greece's debt problems could halt the global economic recovery. The Dow managed to recover two-thirds of its losses and close down 347 at 10,520. There were reports that the sudden drop was caused by a trader who mistyped an order to sell a large block of stock. The drop in that stock's price was enough to trigger "sell" orders across the market. Still, the Dow was already down more than 200 points as traders watched protests in the streets of Athens on TV. Thursday's clashes in Athens came a day after violent protests left three people dead after a bank was firebombed. Greek lawmakers voted 172-121 to approve the austerity measures — worth about €30 billion (\$38.18 billion) through 2012 — that will slash pensions and civil servants'

pay and further hike consumer taxes. The rescue loans are aimed at containing the debt crisis and keeping Greece's troubles from spreading to other countries with vulnerable state finances such as Portugal and Spain. The money will come from the International Monetary Fund and the 15 other governments whose countries use the euro. European governments are now scrambling to get parliamentary approval for the Greek loans. European leaders will meet about the issue in Brussels on Friday. Fears of Greek default have undermined the euro, and while the current package should keep Greece from immediate bankruptcy, its long-term prospects are unclear. The country's growth prospects are weak, and the population's willingness to accept cutbacks may wane, leading some economists to predict an eventual debt restructuring somewhere down the road. Opposition parties lambasted the government for imposing measures that are too harsh for the population to bear. "The dose of the medicine you are administering is in danger of killing the patient," conservative opposition leader Antonis Samaras said. Clashes in Athens broke out

at the end of a main protest that drew tens of thousands of people as police pushed back a few thousand demonstrators outside parliament. The violence was quickly contained with riot police firing tear gas at the protesters, who had earlier pelted them with stones, oranges and bottles. Several small fires burned in surrounding streets. No injuries or arrests were reported. Demonstrators banging drums and shouting anti-government slogans through bullhorns, unfurled a giant black banner outside parliament earlier Thursday. More than 30,000 demonstrators filled downtown streets, chanting "They declared war. Now fight back." Prime Minister George Papandreou expelled three Socialist deputies who dissented in the vote, reducing the party's number of seats to 157 in the 300-member parliament. "We have done what was necessary, not what was easy," Finance Minister George Papaconstantinou said after the vote. "Without these measures, we'd be thrown into the deepest recession this country has ever known." Samaras also expelled a dissenting lawmaker, former Foreign Minister Dora Bakoyannis, reducing his



A protestor gestures to the riot police officers as they stand outside the Greek parliament during an anti government rally in Athens Thursday, May 6, 2010. Greek police fired tear gas to repel stone-throwing protesters after lawmakers approved drastic austerity cuts Thursday needed to secure international rescue loans worth euro 110 billion (\$140 billion).

Associated Press

share of parliamentary seats to 90. The bulk of Thursday's protest — organized by the Greek Communist Party — quickly dispersed, leaving about 5,000 demonstrators outside parliament before police pushed them back. Protester Thodoris Mougiakos said he was angry the IMF would control Greek finances. "It's blackmail," the 32-year-old engineer said. "There is money, but they spend it on things like armaments and businesses. The church has money too. If we had been drawing money from all these

sources, we wouldn't be in this situation now," But the protest remained peaceful, in contrast with Wednesday's rioting that left three people dead, 59 injured and 25 people arrested. Police said 50 stores, banks and offices were damaged and seven vehicles damaged or burned. Papaconstantinou said Greece would default on debt payments this month unless it received the bailout loans from the International Monetary Fund and 15 euro-zone countries that had remained divided for months on how to aid Athens. □

Betty White makes a splash, over and over again



In this publicity image released by NBC, cast member Kristen Wiig, left, and Betty White are shown on the set of 'Saturday Night Live,' Tuesday, May 4, 2010 in New York as they film promotional videos for White's upcoming appearance on the late night comedy show on Saturday.

By LYNN ELBER,
AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES — In 1951, a newspaper hailed Betty White as "TV's Busiest Gal" in a headline that merits recycling. Consider her latest itinerary: The actress flew from Los Angeles to Washington to attend the White House Correspondents Association dinner last Saturday; traveled to New York to host this weekend's "Saturday Night Live," and will return home to tape the new sitcom "Hot in Cleveland" starting Monday. Her age — she turned 88 in January — seems as irrelevant to her as it does to the fans and colleagues she continues to beguile, although White modestly downplays her

(AP Photo/NBC, Dana Edelson) appeal.

"I've been around so long — everyone grew up with me. I'm sort of a fixture. I'm not somebody they have to get to know; it's just old Betty," she says, interviewed at her home before heading to the East Coast.

It takes all of a moment to be charmed by White. When a visitor says it's a pleasure to meet her, White's reply comes with precision timing.

"We'll soon fix that," she warns, her bright blue eyes and dimpled smile an impish counterpoint.

What's not to love?

"You can tell that Betty has always had a giggle in her heart," says Wendie Malick, a star of TV Land's "Hot in

Cleveland," which debuts June 16 with White as a sassy housekeeper. "You can just tell she's approached her life with gratitude and joy."

"She's so incredibly charming and, no matter what, she just shows up and you like her," says "SNL" star Bill Hader. "There's something very kind of amiable and charming, which can afford her to be very edgy in a way."

White relishes pushing the limits, whether playing the lustful Sue Ann Nivens on "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" or an uber-cougar in a "SNL" promo, in which she denies preying on young men — while a stud obediently dusts furniture in the background.

In lesser hands, the scene would be nothing more than hackneyed mockery of an oldster who is the object of ridicule for daring to be sexual. But White's adroit bravado goes beyond sex; this woman knows how to live.

Her appearance on the NBC comedy show resulted from a campaign on Facebook that drew more than a half-million pleas for her to get the gig. That followed her killer Super Bowl ad with Abe Vigoda for Snickers, which followed her lively appearance with Sandra Bullock at the Screen Actors Guild awards at which White received a lifetime achievement honor. □



In this film publicity image released by Focus Features, a Mongolia child named Bayarjargal is shown in a scene from the film, 'Babies.'

(AP Photo/Focus Features)

'Babies' may have violated child labor laws

By SANDY COHEN,
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES — The babies you see in the movies and on TV are total divas.

California law requires it: Infants need a doctor's note and legal permits before they can be stars. They're only allowed on camera for 20 minutes a day. They must be accompanied by both a nurse and studio teacher — both paid for by the producers. The babies also need to be at least 15 days old.

But the filmmakers behind "Babies," a documentary in theaters Friday, say they didn't have to worry about all that. They cast the film's four international stars while they were still in the womb and filmed them unobtrusively in their natural environments, like "a wildlife film of human babies," says producer Amandine Bilot.

Still, the film may have violated California's tough child labor laws, since one of its young stars hails from the Golden State.

The law is clear — it applies to any kind of film production using children in the state, including documentaries, says Toni Casala, founder of ChildrenInFilm.com, an online resource for parents and producers who want kids on camera.

Presented without narration or dialogue, "Babies" follows four infants from around the world from birth until their first steps. Viewers see Ponijao and her traditional life among the Himba culture in Namibia; Bayarjargal, the son of nomads in Mongolia; Mari, growing up in the heart of Tokyo; and Hattie, a baby girl in San Francisco.

Director Thomas Balmes says he wanted to show the universality of parental love and children's development, despite geographical and cultural differences. □



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BUSINESS

Aruba TODAY

Stocks extend plunge on concerns about Greece

By TIM PARADIS,
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK — It was a painful flashback to the darkest days of 2008: Stocks plunged and the Dow Jones industrials skidded by hundreds of points as traders succumbed to fears that Greece's debt problems would halt the global economic recovery. The Dow lost almost 1,000 points before recovering to a loss of 505 as traders watched protests in the streets of Athens on TV. Protestors raged against austerity measures passed by the Greek parliament. But traders were not comforted by the fact that Greece seemed to be working towards a resolution of its debt problems. Instead, they focused on the possibility that other European countries would also run into trouble, and that the damage to their economies could spread to the U.S. Computer trading intensified the losses as programs designed to sell stocks at a specified level kicked in. Traders use those programs to try to limit their losses when the market is falling. And the selling only led to more selling as prices fell.

"I think the machines just took over. There's not a lot of human interaction," said Charlie Smith, chief investment officer at Fort Pitt Capital Group. "We've known that automated trading can run away from you, and I think that's what we saw happen today." There were reports that a technical glitch hastened the selling. Stock in the consulting firm Accenture fell to 4 cents after closing at \$42.17 on Wednesday. It was priced at about \$41 in the last half-hour of trading. New York Stock Exchange spokesman Raymond Pellecchia said he was unaware of any problems with the exchange's trading systems but was looking into whether an error occurred. Even if there were technical issues, emotions about the world economy were

running high. Down 998.50 points in its largest point drop ever, the Dow recovered to a loss of 505. Meanwhile, interest rates on Treasuries soared as traders sought the safety of U.S. government debt. The yield on the benchmark 10-year note, which moves opposite its price, fell to 3.39 percent from late Wednesday's 3.54 percent. "The market is now realizing that Greece is going to go through a depression over the next couple of years," said Peter Boockvar, equity strategist at Miller Tabak. "Europe is a major trading partner of ours, and this threatens the entire global growth story." The stock market has had periodic bouts of anxiety about the European economies during the past few months. They have intensified over the



Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Thursday, May 6, 2010, in New York. It was a painful flashback to the darkest days of 2008: Stocks plunged and the Dow Jones industrials skidded by hundreds of points as traders succumbed to fears that Greece's debt problems would halt the global economic recovery.

(AP Photo/Henny Ray Abrams)

past week even as Greece appeared to be moving closer to getting a bailout package from some of its neighbors. The losses in stocks were

so widespread that just 139 stocks rose on the New York Stock Exchange, compared to 3,029 that fell. The major indexes were all down more than 4 percent. □





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SPORTS

Aruba TODAY



Minnesota Twins' Nick Punto, left, and Justin Morneau celebrate the Twins' 5-4 win and their three-game sweep of the Detroit Tigers in a baseball game, Wednesday, May 5, 2010, in Minneapolis.

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The Minnesota Twins completed their first series sweep of the season at the ninth attempt, beating the Detroit Tigers 4-3 in the American League on Wednesday.

Denard Span had three singles and a walk for Minnesota, which moved 3 1-2 games above Detroit atop the AL

Central.

Twins starter Kevin Slowey (4-2) allowed three home runs in 5 2-3 innings, but they were all solo shots — two by Miguel Cabrera. Closer Jon Rauch earned his eighth save in nine tries.

Tigers starter Rick Porcello (2-3) tied his career worst with four walks, allowing five runs

AL Roundup

Twins complete sweep

Top Tigers 4-3

in 5 1-3 innings.

Rays 8, Mariners 3

In Seattle, Tampa Bay boosted its extraordinary road record to 11-1 by beating Seattle.

At 20-7, Tampa Bay extended the best AL start since the 2005 Chicago White Sox.

Matt Garza (5-1) became the AL's first five-game winner, allowing five hits in eight innings.

Evan Longoria had the go-ahead hit in the eighth inning off Mariners starter Cliff Lee (0-1) who allowed 10 hits.

Seattle cleanup hitter Milton Bradley is out indefinitely, asking the Mariners for help with an emotional issue.

Athletics 4, Rangers 1

In Oakland, California, Eric Patterson homered as Oakland downed Texas.

Trevor Cahill (1-1), a 10-game winner last year as a rookie, won his first for this season after being called up from the minors. He allowed only two runners past first in give

innings.

Ryan Sweeney and Kevin Kouzmanoff produced consecutive RBI groundouts in the first as the A's took an early lead. Patterson connected in the fifth against Colby Lewis (3-1).

Blue Jays 5, Indians 4

In Cleveland, Adam Lind hit a two-run homer with two outs in the ninth inning to dramatically clinch a series sweep for Toronto over Cleveland.

With two outs in the ninth, Toronto's Fred Lewis doubled for his third hit of the game. Aaron Hill followed with a slow roller that Indians' stand-in shortstop Luis Valbuena botched, ruining a chance at the game-ending out.

Lind followed with a shot to left field off Chris Perez (0-2), sending Cleveland to its fourth straight loss.

The late rally made a winner of Blue Jays reliever Jason Frasor (1-1). Toronto, which

has won four straight, swept its first three-game series in Cleveland since 2002.

In New York, Nick Johnson and Nick Swisher homered while Mark Teixeira hit a two-run double to help New York defeat Baltimore.

The Yankees led 6-1 after seven innings, but the Orioles scored four times against five relievers, including a pair of solo homers by Matt Wieters and Nolan Reimold in the ninth.

New York starter Andy Pettitte (4-0) was pulled after five innings because of a sore elbow but improved to 7-0 in his past nine starts against Baltimore.

In other AL games it was, Toronto 5, Cleveland 4; N.Y. Yankees 7, Baltimore 5; Minnesota 5, Detroit 4; Oakland 4, Texas 1; Boston 3, L.A. Angels 1; Chicago White Sox 9, Kansas City 2; and Tampa Bay 8, Seattle 3. □

Hall of Fame pitcher Robin Roberts dies at 83

ROB MAADDI

AP Sports Writer

PHILADELPHIA (AP) —

Robin Roberts, the tireless Hall of Fame pitcher who led the Philadelphia Phillies to the 1950 National League pennant as part of the famed "Whiz Kids," died Thursday. He was 83.

Roberts died at his Florida home of natural causes, the Phillies said, citing son Jim.

The right-hander was the most productive pitcher in the National League in the first half of the 1950s, topping the league in wins from 1952 to

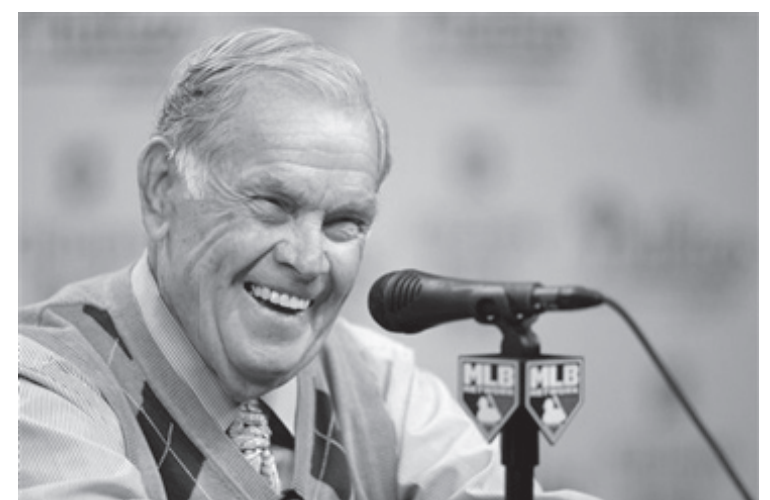
1955, innings pitched from '51 to '55 and complete games from '52 to '56.

He won 286 games and put together six consecutive 20-win seasons. Roberts had 45 career shutouts, 2,357 strikeouts and a lifetime ERA of 3.41. He pitched 305 complete games, but also gave up more home runs than any other major league pitcher. Phillies pitcher Jamie Moyer is on the verge of breaking that mark. The 47-year-old Moyer has given up 498 homers, seven fewer than Roberts.

"He was a boyhood hero of

mine," team president David Montgomery said. "Then I had a chance to meet him personally. I remember pinching myself knowing I was talking to Robin Roberts. His career and stats speak for themselves. But first and foremost he was a friend and we'll miss him badly."

Roberts, the son of immigrants from Wales, played in an era when pitchers expected to go the distance. Put it this way: In the past 25 years, Phillies pitchers threw a total of 300 complete games — five fewer than Roberts all by himself.



This Oct. 28, 2009, file photo shows Hall of Fame baseball pitcher Robin Roberts, who led the Philadelphia Phillies to the 1950 National League pennant, laughing at a news conference, in Philadelphia. The Phillies say Roberts died of natural causes Thursday, May 6, 2010, at his home in Temple Terrace, Fla. He was 83.

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Roberts made 609 career starts, finishing more than half. "Robin was one of the most consistent, competitive

and durable pitchers of his generation and a symbol of the Whiz Kids," commissioner Bud Selig said. □

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NHL Roundup

Bruins put Flyers on brink, Blackhawks win

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Boston's Blake Wheeler, Miroslav Satan and Mark Recchi scored in a 4-1 win over the Philadelphia Flyers on Wednesday that lifted the Bruins to a commanding 3-0 lead in the NHL's Eastern Conference semifinal series. Patrice Bergeron scored an empty-net goal for the Bruins with 1:52 left.

Boston goalie Tuukka Rask allowed a quick goal at the start, but finished with 34 saves. The Bruins can complete the sweep in Game 4 in Philadelphia on Friday. Arron Ashram scored after 2:32 to put Philadelphia up 1-0, but Wheeler and Satan scored 94 seconds apart in the first period to wipe out the Flyers' lead, and the Boston never looked back.

The Bruins took over, even as injuries forced center David Krejci and Adam McQuaid out of the game. Krejci was leveled on a crushing hit from Philadelphia captain Mike Richards that actually led to Boston's go-ahead goal.

The loose puck was corralled by Milan Lucic, who got it to Satan for his fifth goal of the postseason and a 2-1 Boston lead.

The Bruins were outshot by a 2-to-1 margin most of the game. The Flyers had plenty of open looks, but they couldn't convert any rebounds against Rask. The Bruins goalie stopped all 15 shots in the second period, including two Philadelphia chances on the power play. Unlike the Flyers, Boston was able to convert at least

one power-play chance. Recchi, a former Flyers star, scored his 54th career playoff goal to make it 3-1.

Philadelphia has never won a series when trailing 3-0 (0-6). Only two NHL teams have recovered from such a deficit and advanced. The Bruins are 16-0 when they lead a best-of-seven series 3-0.

Blackhawks 5, Canucks 2
In Vancouver, big forward Dustin Byfuglien scored a hat trick to lift Chicago over Vancouver and to a 2-1 lead in the Western Conference semifinal series.

Kris Versteeg and Marian Hossa also scored, and Antti Niemi made 16 of his 31 saves in the first period as the Blackhawks picked up where they left off in Game 2 when they scored three goals in a third-period comeback win.

For Vancouver, Jannik Hansen and Alex Burrows scored and Roberto Luongo made 30 saves. The Canucks will try to even the series when they host Game 4 on Friday.

Vancouver was 0 for 4 on the power play and allowed two goals to Chicago in six times short-handed. Byfuglien played a big role after being moved up from defense to play on the top line with Patrick Kane and Jonathan Toews, who had three assists.

Versteeg, who scored the winning goal with 90 seconds left in Game 2, opened the scoring 5:19 in by banging in a loose puck that trickled

Philadelphia Flyers goalie Brian Boucher can't stop a goal by Boston Bruins' Miroslav Satan during the first period of Game 3 of a second-round NHL playoff hockey series, Wednesday, May 5, 2010, in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

behind Luongo.

Pointless in his first eight playoff games, Byfuglien made it 2-0 as he lifted in a power-play rebound late in the first period. Toews won a faceoff cleanly, and Luongo bobbled Duncan Keith's unscreened shot from the point.

Hansen pulled the Canucks within a goal midway through the second, but Burrows took an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty 2 minutes later. Byfuglien then lifted in another rebound after Toews drove to the net along the goal line, making it 3-1.

Vancouver's Burrows made up for the undisciplined penalty by snapping a wrist shot from the slot with 54 seconds left in the period to cut it to 3-2.

Luongo kept the Canucks in it with a sensational stick save off Brian Campbell, but any hope of Vancouver adding to an NHL-leading 13 third-period comebacks ended when Hossa beat Shane O'Brien to a rebound for an easy goal at 7:45.

Byfuglien was credited with the final goal with 6:02 left. Luongo was in position to make the save before Byfuglien pushed him into the net, but the goal was upheld after a video review. □



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NBA Playoffs

Stoudemire leads 'Los Suns' over Spurs, 110-102



Phoenix Suns' Amare Stoudemire jumps to the basket over San Antonio Spurs' Antonio McDyess during Game 2 of the NBA Western Conference semifinals at US Airways Center in Phoenix, AZ Wednesday May 5, 2010.

BOB BAUM
AP Sports Writer

Associated Press
PHOENIX — Los Suns ganaron. That means the Suns

won. Amare Stoudemire had 23 points and 11 rebounds, Channing Frye made 5 of 6 3-pointers, and Phoenix, wearing its orange "Los Suns" jerseys in part to protest Arizona's new anti-immigration law, pulled away for a 110-102 victory over the San Antonio Spurs on Wednesday night, taking a 2-0 lead in the Western Conference semifinals. Steve Nash and Jason Richardson scored 19 apiece and Grant Hill added 18 in a grind-it-out game played at the Spurs' pace until the Suns started hitting 3-pointers. After starting 1 of 7 from long range Phoenix made eight of its next 12.

Tim Duncan had 29 points

and 10 rebounds and Richard Jefferson rebounded from a poor Game 1 with 18 points and 10 boards for San Antonio. Tony Parker added 20 points for the Spurs.

The best-of-seven series shifts to San Antonio for Game 3 on Friday night.

Manu Ginobili, guarded mainly by Hill, was 2 of 8 from the field, including just 1 of 2 in the second half, but had 11 assists for San Antonio.

The Spurs outshot Phoenix 51 percent to 42 percent but the Suns outrebounded taller San Antonio 49-37, 18-7 on the offensive boards. Stoudemire made just 5 of 16 shots but was 11 of 13 at the free throw line. The Suns outscored the Spurs by 14 at the line, going 29 of 37 to San Antonio's 15 of 22.

The score was nearly identical to Game 1, won by Phoenix 111-102.

Referee Ron Garretson left the game after the third quarter with a leg injury. Fellow ref Joey Crawford said Garretson injured his Achilles' tendon.

Substitute referee David Jones worked the final quarter.

The Suns trailed the entire first half before climbing into a 51-51 tie at the break. They had a precarious 78-76 lead entering the fourth quarter.

Stoudemire scored six points and Hill made two free throws in an 8-1 spurt that put Phoenix ahead 103-92 with 3:34 to play and San Antonio never recovered.

Parker's 3-pointer and Duncan's rebound dunk cut the lead to 103-97 with 2 1/2 minutes to go, but Nash floated in an underhanded left-handed bank shot and Richardson hit a 17-footer to end the comeback.

There was almost no evidence in the loud arena of the storm stirred up on Tuesday when Suns owner Robert Sarver issued a statement saying the team would wear "Los Suns" on their jerseys, to celebrate diversity on Cinco de Mayo but also to protest the immigration bill passed by the Arizona legislature and signed by Gov. Jan Brewer. □

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NL Roundup

Kendrick steers Phillies over Cards

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Kyle Kendrick threw seven scoreless innings to steer the Philadelphia Phillies to a 4-0 win over the St. Louis Cardinals on Wednesday as the National League's East division leaders overcame the Central pacesetters.

Kendrick (1-1) and Cardinals starter Brad Penny (3-2) provided an impressive pitchers' duel. The Phillies runs came from twin two-run homers, from Placido Polanco and Shane Victorino.

In San Diego, Ian Stewart's home run leading off the 12th inning gave Colorado a tight win over San Diego. Stewart, who entered the game in the 10th, drove a pitch from Tim Stauffer (2-1) into the seats in left-center, his fifth of the season. The home run ended Stauffer's streak of 17 1-3 scoreless innings to open the season.

The loss dropped the Padres percentage points behind San Francisco in the fight for the lead of the NL West. Reds 5, Mets 4, 10 innings. In Cincinnati, Orlando Cabrera led off the 10th inning with a home run just inside the foul pole, lifting Cincinnati over New York. Cabrera's fifth game-ending homer, a drive off Pedro Feliciano (1-1), gave the Reds their second last-swing victory in the series. Cincinnati's Micah Owings (3-0) pitched one perfect inning to take the win after Francisco Cordero blew a one-run lead in the ninth. Brandon Phillips and Jonny Gomes also homered for the Reds. David Wright had a solo shot for the Mets, giving him a nine-game hitting streak that includes four homers.

Giants 3, Marlins 2

In Miami, Barry Zito pitched into the eighth inning to help San Francisco edge Florida.

Zito (5-0), off to the best start of his career, allowed only one run to lower his ERA to 1.49. He also improved to 4-0 with a 1.07 ERA in four career starts in Miami.

His reliever Sergio Romo required only six pitches to escape a bases-loaded, none-out jam. Brian Wilson gave up a run in the ninth but left runners stranded at the corners for his fifth save.

San Francisco's Aaron Rowand hit his second homer in two nights.

Giants starter Nate Robertson (2-3) lost his third decision in a row.

Braves 7, Nationals 6, 10 innings

In Washington, Matt Diaz hit a tiebreaking single in the 10th inning, helping Atlanta snap an eight-game road losing skid with a victory over Washington. Troy Glaus started the rally in the 10th with a leadoff single against Matt Capps (0-1). Melky Cabrera's sacrifice sent pinch-runner Brandon Hicks to second before Diaz, who had been hitting .185, looped a single to short right for the winner.

Atlanta's Kris Medlen (1-1) pitched a scoreless inning to take the win and Billy Wagner got three outs for his third save.

Pirates 4, Cubs 2

In Pittsburgh, Charlie Morton pitched effectively for the first time this season, guiding Pittsburgh past Chicago.

Morton (1-5), who entered with a 12.57 ERA, allowed two runs in six-plus innings and didn't walk a batter. His previous win, last season, was also against the Cubs.

Ryan Church homered for the second consecutive game and Garrett Jones had two hits and two RBIs as the Pirates improved to 9-1 in games decided by two

runs or less.

Chicago starter Ted Lilly (1-2) was charged with nine hits in six innings.

In Los Angeles, Prince Fielder keyed a four-run first inning with a two-run single as Milwaukee thumped Los Angeles.

The Brewers won for only the second time this season without hitting a home run. Milwaukee's Rickie Weeks had three hits with a walk and three RBIs.

Brewers starter Doug Davis (1-3) overcame a shaky start to win his first game of the season. He gave up three runs in 5 1-3 innings. Dodgers starter Chad Billingsley (2-2) ceded four runs in six innings.

Astros 4, Diamondbacks 2

In Houston, the hosts snapped an eight-game losing skid by downing Arizona.

Carlos Lee's first homer of the season, a two-run shot in the ninth inning, ended



Philadelphia Phillies starter Kyle Kendrick throws during the first inning of a baseball game against the New York Mets, Friday, April 30, 2010, in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

the contest. Kaz Matsui drew a leadoff walk before Lee sent a long drive to left field off Juan Gutierrez (0-4).

Lee had averaged nearly 30 homers and over 100 RBIs in his first three years with Houston. This home run came in his 100th at-bat of the season — the three-time All-Star slugger began the day hitting just .198.

Astros closer Matt Lindstrom (1-0) gave up back-to-back singles with

one out in the ninth, but got out of the jam when Kelly Johnson grounded into a double play.

In other NL games it was, Cincinnati 5, N.Y. Mets 4, 10 innings; Atlanta 7, Washington 6, 10 innings; Pittsburgh 4, Chicago Cubs 2; Philadelphia 4, St. Louis 0; San Francisco 3, Florida 2; Houston 4, Arizona 2; Colorado 6, San Diego 5, 12 innings; and Milwaukee 11, L.A. Dodgers 3. □



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SPORTS

Aruba TODAY

Holmes, Allenby share lead at Players Championship

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Florida (AP) — J.B. Holmes and Australia's Robert Allenby shared the Players Championship lead at 6-under 66 after the opening round Thursday.

Coming off the worst performance of his career, Tiger Woods survived a rugged start and made his only bogey on the final hole for a 2-under 70 at the TPC Sawgrass.

Holmes and Allenby were a stroke ahead of eight players, including England's Lee Westwood and 49-year-old Kenny Perry. In muggy conditions with only a swirling breeze late in the day, 36 players broke 70, the most for the opening round of this tournament since 1994.

"It was a fun day, one of those rounds where everything was going pretty good," said Holmes, who played bogey-free and only once came close to making a bogey. "It's kind of one of those rounds where it's not easy, but it felt pretty easy." Allenby played in the afternoon, when the breeze kicked up, and only had one lapse with a three-putt on the par-3 eighth.

Conditions were perfect for low scoring, and the Stadium Course allows for that with reachable par 5s and a few hole locations in areas that could be attacked.

"Greens were a bit slow out there, definitely quite soft after the rain that we've had the last couple of days," Allenby said. "It definitely made it very accessible, some of those flags. I'm happy with the start, just happy to be amongst it."



J.B. Holmes, left, lines up his putt on the 18th green during the first round, and Robert Allenby, of Australia, right, hits off the eighth tee during the first round of The Players Championship golf tournament Thursday, May 6, 2010, in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla.

Associated Press

Francesco Molinari of Italy had a chance to join the leaders until he chopped up the par-5 ninth hole for a bogey and joined the large group at 68. Those at 69 included Jim Furyk and Vijay Singh, along with Davis Love III, who showed that even a benign Sawgrass still has some bite. He was tied for the lead until making bogeys on the last three holes.

Masters champion Phil Mickelson, who has a chance to be No. 1 in the world for the first time with a victory and Woods finishing out of the top five, didn't play his best but still managed a 70.

"Shooting 70 today isn't the round that you want," Mickelson said. "We came out in perfect conditions. There wasn't much wind, the greens were receptive, and there were a lot of low scores. But the reason I think this was a good day



for me is I just didn't have it. So tomorrow if I can come out and get hot and shoot something in the mid-60s, I can get back in the tournament."

That usually isn't a problem for Woods, although last week at Quail Hollow raised several questions about whether his head was in the game with so much going on in his personal life. Woods had his second-highest round (79) and the worst 36-hole score (153) of his career to miss the cut by eight shots.

Then came practice rounds that didn't look much better.

"I've felt like I've done some good work this week, even though reports are I was hitting all over the lot," Woods said. "But I was working on a few things. I was very comfortable with what I was working toward, and I was very excited about what was happening.

It was just a matter of doing it in competition. And I did it today."

A few pars saved the day — one after a hooked tee shot into the trees, another when he fanned a shot to the right into the bunker on No. 4, then made an 8-foot par putt after hitting another bunker. And nothing looked worse than a 3-wood that he popped up on No. 7, barely reaching the fairway and having to hit a 5-wood for his second shot on a par 4. He got up-and-down for par, and two holes later, gave a light but meaningful fist pump when he hit 5-wood to a tucked green on the par-5 ninth to 18 feet for a two-putt birdie.

He only hit one bad shot the rest of the round, but it led to a recovery shot that his caddie opposed.

Woods pulled his 5-wood on the short 12th hole smack into a sawgrass bush, the ball suspended a few inches off

the ground. Steve Williams suggested that he declare an unplayable lie and take a penalty shot.

"That was a hit-and-hope," Woods said.

He went to another bush to simulate how the ball might come out. As he stood over the shot, Williams was still pointing to the grass behind him as a good place to drop. Woods ignored him, never taking his eyes off the shot. "It was a very, very low percentage shot," Williams said. "If he takes the drop, the worst he can make is 5. He could have hit it anywhere. He could have whiffed it. But he said, 'I think I can hit this.'"

Woods hit it to the front of the green, chipped to 5 feet and made his par. His only bogey came on the 18th, when his 5-wood had too much draw and took a hard hop left into the water. He turned and cursed twice, then began the long walk up the fairway to figure out where to drop. There went Woods' hope of breaking 70 in the opening round at Sawgrass for the first time in his career.

Woods sounded optimistic after playing only his seventh round of competition since Nov. 15.

"It takes time to get into the rhythm of competing, and it takes tournaments," he said. "And I haven't had a lot of tournaments under my belt."

This was on a gentle course. Perhaps the most telling part of the round was the big numbers — or lack of them. Greg Owen hit two in the water on the 17th and made a quadruple-bogey 7 that ruined his round of 73, while the highest score was a 78 by Daniel Chopra. □

Unions agree with list of issues on the way to a national dialogue

Recognize austerity measures are unavoidable



ORANJESTAD—There are a number of decisions that need to be taken in Aruba that may affect all, particularly public workers. While public workers expect to receive cost of living increases on their salaries, the government just announced a record breaking deficit on its budget, as well as a major fall out in the public employee

retirement fund.

This is also why the government hopes to reach a national dialogue with all parties, including the employees' representatives to reach to common goals, carried by all stakeholders.

It is clear to everyone that the staggering budget deficit, of over 300 million florins will require drastic measures

that may include sacrifices. However, the extension of those sacrifices is still unclear and the question remains whether unions are even willing to accept them.

The National Dialogue Committee was called to life by the government a few weeks ago, with the objective to meet with the various stakeholders and conduct fact findings to enable a smoother transition toward a national dialogue. The committee however stumbled quickly onto a roadblock set up by the labor unions, who were upset they were not consulted on the agenda of future meetings. But this week, the impasse was broken and the committee met with representatives of the labor unions during to discuss particularly the issues that the parties will be deliberating on.



The meeting took place at the Central Bank of Aruba.

The parties identified issues like the General Medical Insurance (AZV), the General Retirement Fund (AOV), the Public Employees Pension Fund (APFA), public finances, economic diversification, safety and security and education as priorities.

The labor unions agreed with the agenda under the premise that the negotiations will not take place with the committee but with members of the Mike Eman cabinet directly.

They expressed satisfaction that the process for dialogue have finally commenced, yet pointed out at the end of the meeting, that it will still be the task of the government to make decisions on austerity measures, and that the politicians will have to carry the political responsibility for such.

However, spokesperson for the unions, Ivo Valdes acknowledged that decisions that may affect the entire community need to be made based on consensus with all concerned parties, namely the labor and employers' organizations on the island. "All austerity measure will eventually affect the economic power of the working class," Valdes said. And before committing to any step to help alleviate the current financial stress, union members have to be consulted first, he emphasized.

The final report on the meeting this week will be also presented to members, followed then by the setting of a date for the start of the national dialogue.

The government wanted this to take place no later than June, but it is up to the union members to decide whether they approve the agenda or not. □

Aruban Resort now owned by Abura Development Corp.



ORANJESTAD – The Aruban Resort was sold yesterday to the Abura Development Corporation for 36 million florins (20 million dollars), during an auction at the Renaissance Convention Center. Abura Development Company is a local subsidiary of the investment company Icahn Partners. The company was the sole bidder for the resort that went bankrupt last year.

The auction followed a decision of the Courts here on Tuesday, to allow the sale of the resort, requested by the Aruban Resort and Casino Eagle Beach Cooperative Association, against previous mortgage holder, the Wellsfargo Bank Association. Icahn Partners were also part of the suit, as co owners in the cooperative association. The motive of the cooperative association to demand the

auction sale, was the secure the unsold timeshare units, which Wellsfargo Bank Association wanted to claim.

Icahn Partners is owned by hedge fund billionaire Carl Icahn, brought Wellsfargo Bank Association and now plans to continue with the development of the hotel, as well as to rebuilt and operate the casino. The objective is for the renovated casino to support the hotel operation.

Five out of the 36 million will be spent to pay outstanding debt, including back taxes, lawyers say. The company will now appoint a management team to operate The Aruban Resort.

Members of the Cooperative Association and employees of the resort expressed joy with the sale as it will herald a period of stability, after months of uncertainty and fear. □



In Honor of Mother's Day

DUFY pampers the residents of Marie Stella



SAVANETA – A group of company headquarters in DUFY associates from the Oranjestad arrived at Marie Stella in Savaneta on Thursday



for a pampering session designed to delight the elderly residents of the home.

The visitors came equipped to perform hand massages, face toning and make up, and followed the beauty treatments with gifts of fragrance, while Trio Caribe, Edwin Tromp, Herman Hennep and Eddy Clement entertained.

Milly Lacle reports that the morning was dedicated to the elderly on behalf of DUFY and on behalf of DUFY's many clients. "We wanted to give back to the community on the occasion of Mother's Day," she said, "and what better way, than to remember grandmothers and grandfather, and bring some TLC, tender-loving-care, into their lives." The delicious fruit cake - made by Jose Lacle with Splenda, diet Jell-O and fresh fruit - was enjoyed over the classic repertory of love songs,



and traditional Mother's Day songs, by three legendary island troubadours, who even serenaded the home director on her birthday.

Pictured here DUFY's

General Manager Emiliano Matteo, and the DUFY crew with international make-up artist Raphael Batista, visiting Marie-Stella with music and gifts. □



Salt & Pepper pampers all mothers



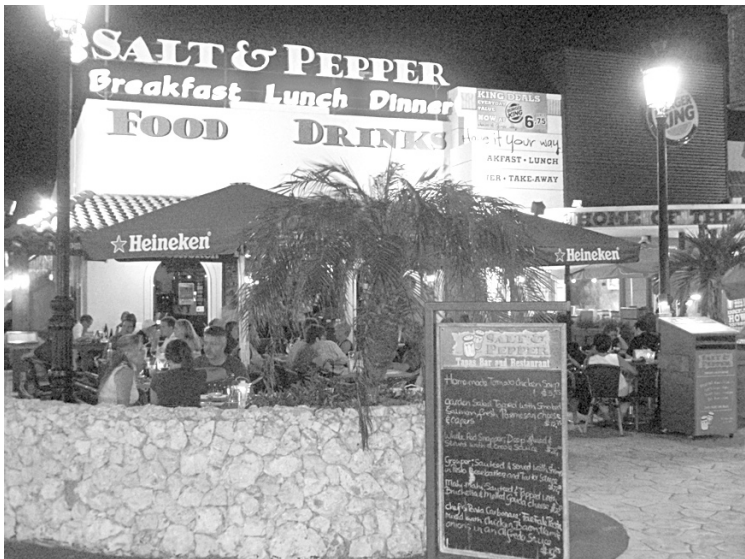
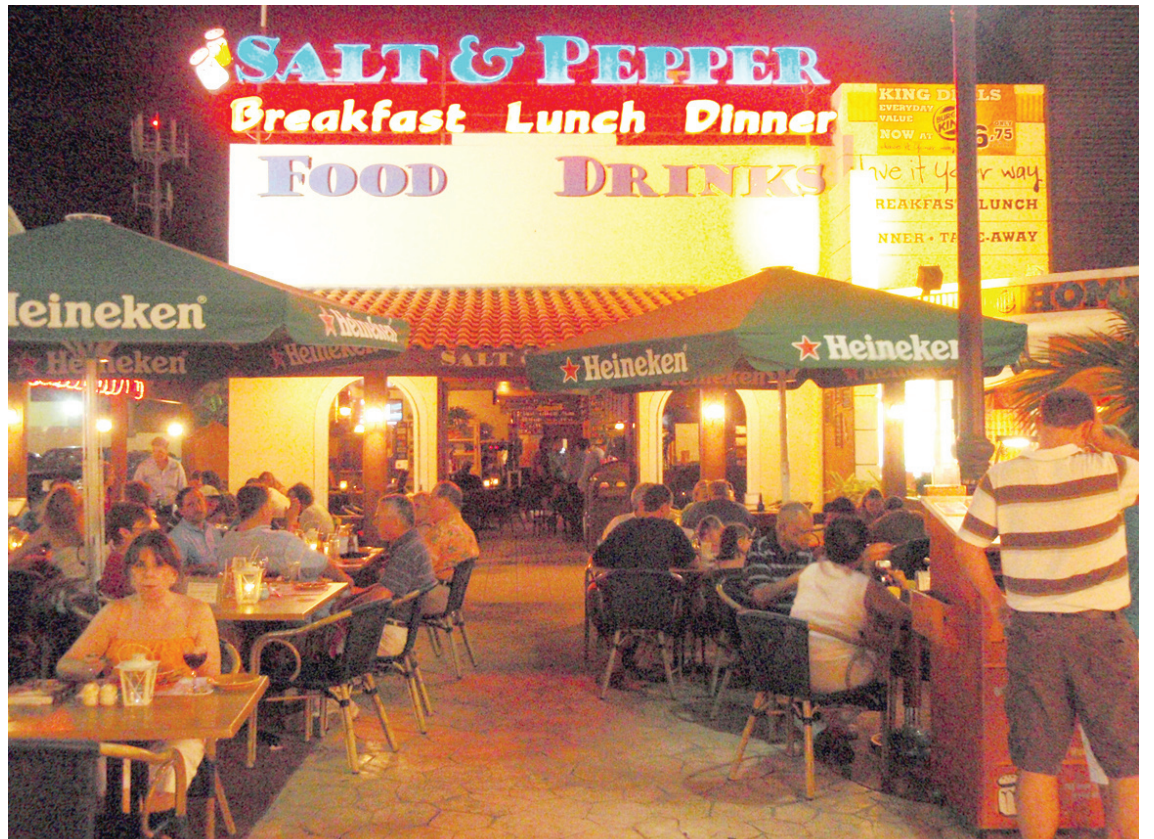
PALM BEACH - All mothers are invited to Salt & Pepper Tapas Bar and Restaurant to enjoy a lovely breakfast or a romantic dinner. Salt & Pepper is a popular hangout with a great variety of food on their menu, tapas (small servings), fresh fish, steaks, pastas, salads, great juicy burgers and even sandwiches. Especially for Mothers Sunday they've created a nice breakfast platter with unlimited mimosas for the mothers!

At night you can expect a great 2 course dinner menu and it's totally up to you whether you would like an appetizer & entrée or a entrée & dessert. The price will be the same and of course all mothers will be surprised with a sweet little gift.

You've found your spot, celebrate Mothers Day at Salt & Pepper! You're welcome from 8 AM till 11.45 PM for breakfast, lunch or dinner. The bar stays open till late for more cocktails or mimosas...

Salt & Pepper is located at Arawak Garden, Palm Beach, in front of Occidental Grand.

Specials: every day Sunset Special: free sangria with your meal between 5-7 pm. Happy Hour from 4-6 pm. ☐





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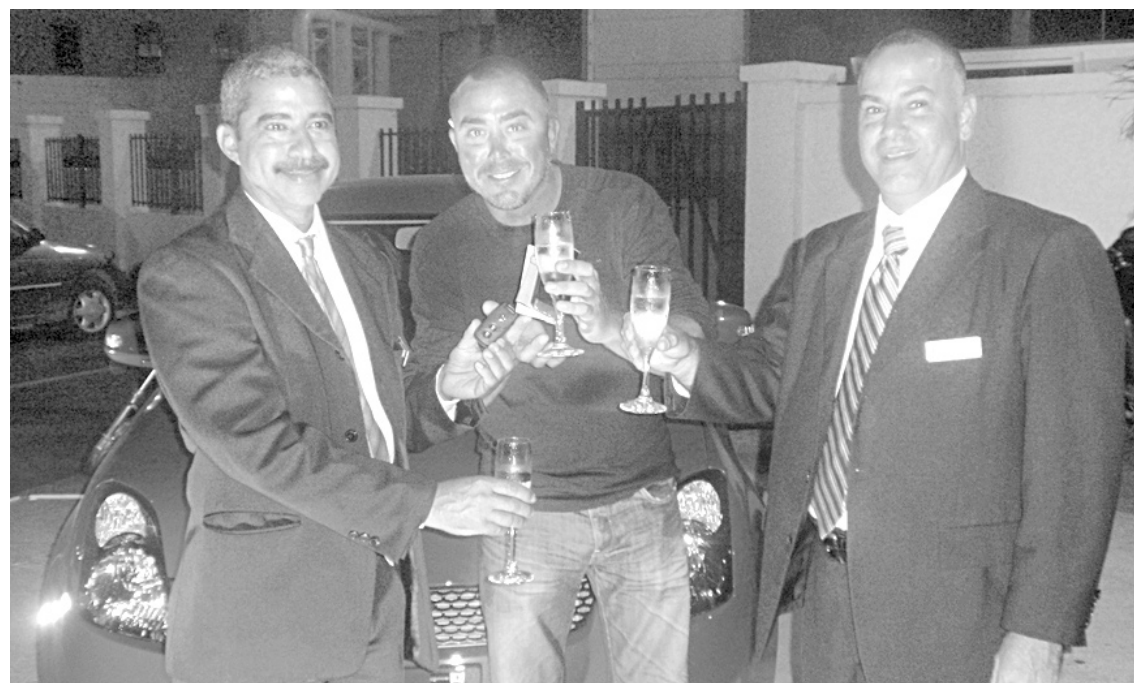
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New Promotion 'Leu Foi Cas' Started May 1st

Thomas Van Vught Wins Brand New Suzuki Swift At Stellaris Casino



PALM BEACH – Stellaris Casino closed the month of April with its popular Stellaris Car Spring Special promotion, offering the ability to win a brand new Suzuki Swift 2010.

With a long line at the Casino VIP desk to redeem their lucky tickets, and a jam-packed casino, one by one, the winners of the cash prizes were announced. A total of 10 winners received cash prizes varying from 250 up to 1,000 florins. At 11:30 pm, Thomas van Vught's name was handpicked from the tombola and crowned the big winner of the Stellaris Car Spring Special. A stunned Mr. van Vught danced his way to claim his grand prize.

In order to have the chance to participate in the Stellaris Car Spring Special, guests accumulated points on tables and slot machines during the month of April and received raffle tickets for every 20 points earned at the slots and for every 25 points at the table games. With this car promotion coming to a successful end, a new promotion already found its way to the Stellaris Casino. After last year's success, the Leu Foi Cas promotion with Robby Schouten is back. Guests that accumulate points on the slot machines and table games are eligible to win the grand prize, a round trip for two to Europe visiting the Netherlands, Belgium, France, Italy, Austria, Switzerland and Germany along with \$1,000 spending money. In addition, a total of 5,000 Florins in cash prizes will be given away. The promotion launched May 1st and the final drawing will take place on Friday May 28th starting at 9:00pm. For every 20 points accumulated on slot machines and 25 points accumulated on tables, players will receive one ticket with a chance to participate in the drawing. Last year's winner Ms. Olivia Geerman, told Stellaris Casino's staff that she had a great time in Europe and was thankful that Aruba's largest gaming facility gave her the opportunity to visit Europe. She hopes to have the chance to win this Leu Foi Cas promotion once again.

More information on Aruba's largest casino and events can be found on www.stellariscasino.com. For the most recent updates and happenings in this casino, become a fan of Stellaris Casino on Facebook.

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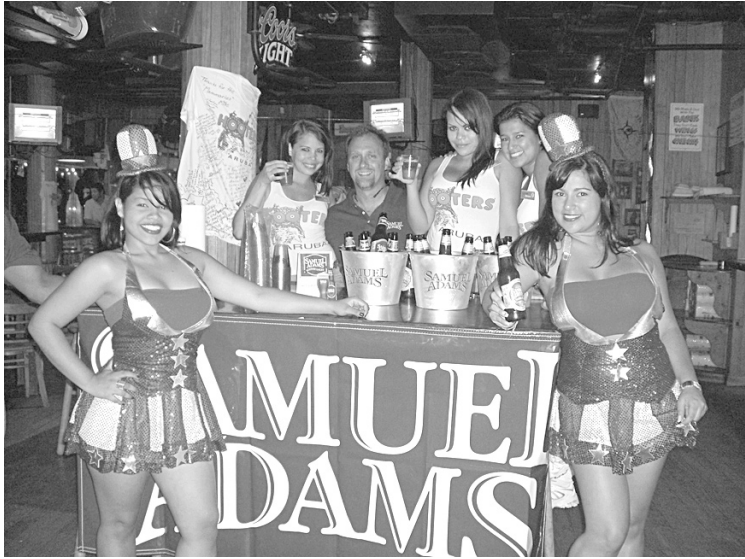
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Sam Adams launch in Aruba a big hit!



PASEO HERENCIA - Pub Crawl that everyone was invited to join, was TGIF, after which Iguana Cantina was paid a visit. After that,



Wednesday 28 April Balashi Brewery/Tropical Bottling announced in a festive celebration at the Paseo Herencia mall that they are now the official distributors of Sam Adams beer in Aruba. The festive night started out with a ceremonial toast with managing director, Mr. Eddie de Veer and the Sales & Marketing team, after which DJ TNT kept the celebration going with some all time American Classics that the crowd enjoyed.

The Sam Adams girls provided everyone with some free Sam Adams beer to sample, after which the planned Pub Crawl started! The first stop for the



the crowd moved on to Champions Bar, Hooters and

the night ended with a bang at Buster's Garage. The entire team, the Sam Adams girls and a big group of Sam Adams lovers participated in the Pub

Crawl and Sam Adams was handed out everywhere. As of now, you can ask for Sam Adams beer at your favorite restaurant or bar in Aruba! □

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HUMAN HINTS

Recognize Your Self

In society today, we take words for granted. We've forgotten their hidden power. Certain words act as unconscious triggers to deeper understanding.

The word 'recognize' is meant to trigger human awareness. To cognize is to become aware. To recognize is to become aware again. We recognize people we have known before. When we recognize, we give relevance, we re-confirm the previous existence of something or someone, including our selves.

It is said that the only time people in a relationship recognize each other is when they argue or fight. People will pick fights with their partner, just to get be recognized, to make their partner aware of them. When your partner gives you attention, they recognize you.

Their recognition of you confirms your relavence. Recognition is confirmation. Arguing with our partner gives us external validation that we make a difference. When we argue, we use others to help us believe that we matter to the world.

We all want to be recognized, and most of our lives are spent seeking external validation of who we think we are. We must realize that we will never find completion in an external illusion. True Recognition is not in remembering something separate from you, it is remembering your Self. When you recognize your self, you provide your own true validation of your importance.

Great theory, but what the heck does it mean to recognize your self?

Throughout life, we become increasingly clear about our desires, strengths, weaknesses, and other aspects of our three dimensional expression.

To recognize your self, means literally to think about yourself again. Become aware of yourself by thinking about your self over and over. Literally, recognize your self.

When you explore your self, you validate your own expression in three dimensions, and your three dimensional expression tells you who you are inside. Recognizing yourself means that you become aware

of who you are in this three dimensional expression.

Until Tomorrow...

Go to www.HumanHints.com to sign up to receive this column in your email each day.

~Quentin Danziger

Quentin has over 20 years experience balancing what we refer to as the Real World, with science and spirit. He has held positions of responsibility and authority, received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics from Colorado School of Mines, and has also studied many avenues of alternative thought. HumanHints is the culmination of his knowledge, experience and practice. These free daily emails detail concrete, real-world techniques to consciously create any future you choose, while in the throes of daily life created by outdated modes of thought.

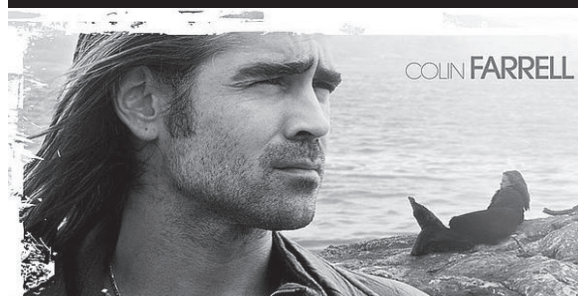
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SCHEDULE FOR WEEK OF MAY 6 - MAY 12

*matinee: saturday & sunday | late show: friday & saturday

AT RENAISSANCE - ORANJESTAD

PG-13	DE GELUKKIGE HUISVROUW				NEW
	daily:	5:45	8:00		
	matinee:	1:00	3:30	late show:	11:00
R	NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET				
	daily:	5:00	7:15	9:30	
	matinee:	2:45		late show:	11:45
PG-13	THE LOSERS				
	daily:	5:15	7:30	9:45	
	matinee:	12:45	3:00	late show:	12:00
PG-13	DEATH AT A FUNERAL				
	daily:	4:45	7:00	9:15	
	matinee:	12:15	2:30	late show:	11:30
PG-13	CLASH OF THE TITANS				3D
	daily:	4:15	6:48	9:00	
	matinee:	1:45	3:30	late show:	11:30
PG-13	IRON MAN 2				
	daily:	5:30	8:30		
	matinee:	12:00	2:45	late show:	11:15

AT PASEO HERENCIA

PG-13	ONDINE				NEW
	daily:	5:30	8:00		
	matinee:	12:15	3:00	late show:	11:00
PG-13	IRON MAN 2				
	daily:	5:30	8:30		
	matinee:	12:00	2:45	late show:	11:15
PG	HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON				3D
	daily:	4:15	6:30	8:45	
	matinee:	1:45		late show:	11:00
PG-13	THE BACK-UP PLAN				
	daily:	4:30	7:00	9:15	
	matinee:	2:00		late show:	11:45
PG	DIARY OF A WIMPY KID				
	daily:				
	matinee:	12:30	2:45	late show:	
PG	FURRY VENGEANCE				
	daily:	5:45	8:00	10:15	
	matinee:	1:15	3:30	late show:	12:30
PG-13	DATE NIGHT				
	daily:	5:00	7:30	9:45	
	matinee:			late show:	12:00

Fun Bridemaids' Brunch at De Suikertuin

Megan and Christopher get married on Aruba!



ORANJESTAD - Megan Tobin and Christopher Aurigemma were married on Aruba last April. Ninety five guests flew in from New York to be present at this wonderful ceremony, which was followed by a sunset cocktail hour on Flamingo Island on Renaissance Island.

Lots of dancing, cheers, speeches and applause

accompanied the fantastic evening. Before all that, was a superb brunch at De Suikertuin.

The bride thanked her bridesmaids Katie, Nicole, kara, Barbara, Christina and Eileen for their support during her 18-month long engagement and for their charming presence at the wedding. The bridesmaids are



Megan's three sisters and her three best friends from grammar school.

Megan sent a mail with pictures to Willeke Volgers of De Suikertuin, thanking her for "the best breakfast and fresh orange juice they ever had".

Congratulations to the happy couple from everyone at De Suikertuin: pabien! ☐

Live Music & Entertainment at Casa Tua Barcelona on Friday Night



ORANJESTAD - Enjoy your Paella and Sangria together with this fantastic live show! The downtown atmosphere is cool and relaxed with its in- and outside seating.

Our Flamenco Show will be extended this Holiday Season with the performance of Kavey Yarzagaray. This Flamenco guitar player will perform together with Angela Croes on Friday night. This is a show that shouldn't be missed.

The highlight at Casa Tua Barcelona is also the new lunch specials every weekday from Monday till Friday! **A \$9.95 lunch special; Beef tenderloin with a red wine sauce or choose the Grouper Fillet for \$11.95. Both dishes include a soft drink. Fresh Fish lovers can treat the palate to the Whole Red Snapper, served with Rice and a salad.**

All days of the week we serve Cold and Hot tapas as appetizers or the delicious Iberian Ham Pata



Negra which we import directly from Andalucía. As your main course you could choose our Paella, traditionally prepared on the spot by our chef! Combine this Spanish dish with our home-made sangria to complete your dinner.

Of course we saved the best for last as no one does an ending better than Casa Tua with their dreamy Tiramisu. If you're into something different we suggest tasting the Espresso Martini Cocktail as dessert, you won't be disappointed.

The best part about such a good ending is that it guarantees you'll be back for more...



Casa Tua Barcelona Downtown open from 11.30am to 10.30pm, Sunday from 5pm to 11pm tel. 588 5695. Casa Tua Palm Beach open from 5pm to 11pm, tel 586 8470

Mother serenaded and entertained at La Cabana



EAGLE BEACH – La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club staged a tremendous event in preparation for Mother's Day, serenading and entertaining all moms working at the resort. The afternoon started with a champagne toast and a warm welcome address by Assistant General Manager Jessica

Franken, a beautiful poem by Rina Maduro-Geerman, a moving recital by Glenda Brokke-Croes, guitar music, and fun raffles for prizes and surprises. Professional emcee Albert Groenveld, helped thread the happy occasion together, as Gretiane Jonas of the Housekeeping Department



became Mother of the year for 2010, receiving flowers, a crown and an attractive gift. Mother's Day celebration at La Cabana Beach & Racquet

Club is a long standing tradition as the resort honors the super-women on its ranks, who expertly manage work, home-life and children year-round. Special tribute was paid to the emcee and the social committee for their



delivery of an excellent event. Pictured here, La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club moms, with their roses and gifts, enjoying the attention, and the delicious catering and cake. □



Adam Steinfeld live tonight!

Don't miss Magic & Comedy tonight at the Westin



STEINFELD: 'MAGIC LIVE!' Theater-of-illusions show... now at the WESTIN - Aruba, see it live! 9pm nightly Night Magic - Comedy - Master of illusions. PREPARE to Witness TOP-Class Illusions, Magic & Comedy on Stage. Adam Steinfeld's Magic Live!® show, at the WESTIN - Aruba... 'Sensational!', 'Amazingly Funny!'...the Hottest ticket in Town! A Must See"

'BEST MAGIC SHOW, I've seen in ages...and I hate Magic! - Carol

Butz, Belair, Maryland. 'MagicLive!...is Hip-Comedy Entertainment, Adam is the ultimate Modern Magician' - Jacque Polak, CBS-TV. Steinfeld sophisticated card-sharp street magic, mixed with grand theater illusions is a visual feast...this will be the highlight of your vacation. -Al Blanchard, mystery novelist, Boston, MA.

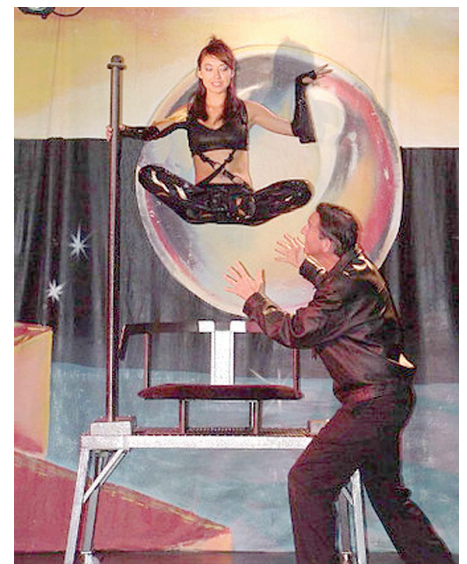
Steinfeld's, comedy magician, likable on-stage personality, comic interactive-wit, and amazing magic, mixed with his dream-like theatre-of-illusions, is a sensory overload of the imagination, along



with his lovely dancers...a treat for the entire family.

SEE IT LIVE! On-Stage! "It's obvious Adam's real passion is performing in front of a live audience, as his charisma and charm create an unforgettable show!" Steinfeld is a 'Master of Magic', he invents many of his own Las Vegas illusions that are designed in England, fabricated in Vegas, and travels with him on tour, in a explosion of amazing fun.

THE MUST-SEE SHOW - YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS IT! **THE WORLD AND BACK,** AdamSteinfeld: 'MAGIC LIVE!', from Monte Carlo, Hong Kong, Orlando, Miami Beach, Biloxi, Boston, San Juan, New York, Aruba to Vegas, it's the coolest show in town, taking up where Houdini left off." **MAGIC - GRAND ILLUSION - COMEDY**



IF YOU GO

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Where: Westin - Aruba, Palm beach (high-rise area)
Who: starring, comedy illusionist, Adam Steinfeld
ShowTime: 9:00 pm, nightly, (7 days a week) theater opens at 8:30pm
TICKETS AVAILABLE: AT THEATER OF ILLUSIONS box office located in Westin lobby starting at 7:30pm nightly up until showtime, or at front desk at anytime
Price: \$19.95 under 15, \$34.95 adults

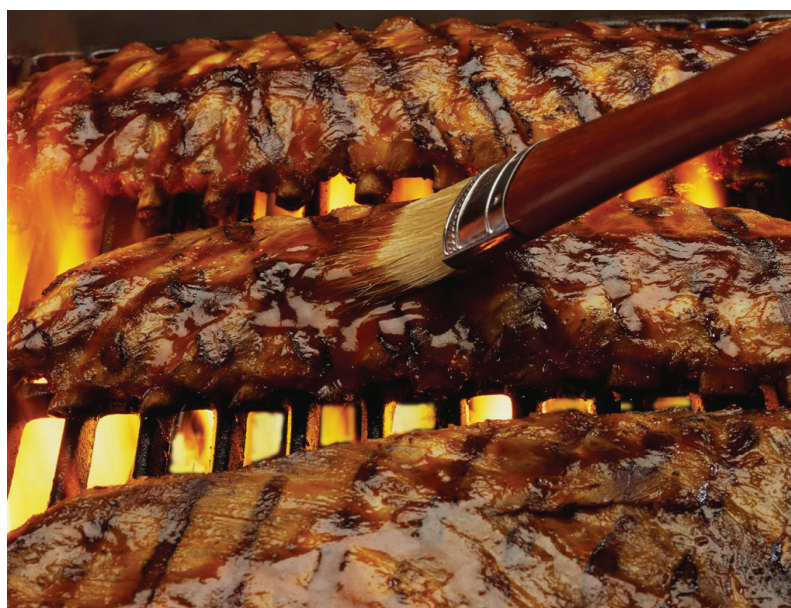
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Today, there are more than 240 locations on five continents. From Seattle to Miami, Tokyo to Madrid, and Calgary to Aruba, Tony Roma's is creating an international incident with its flame-grilled fare. Discover why Tony Roma's is now an island dining institution!

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Official launch on May 6, 2010

Burger King Expands Its Value Offerings With Their New "King Deals"



ORANJESTAD - Burger King expands its Value Menu offerings with the launch of the new KING DEALS. The KING DEALS menu includes 5 different KING DEALS for only AWG 6.15 each. What makes the KING DEALS menu so special is that it includes the new KING DOUBLE KING DEAL which is a premium build flame-broiled double

hamburger with cheese, crunchy pickles, ketchup and mustard on a sesame seed bun - fries and a drink all for just a AWG 6.75.

This KING DEAL boasts more beef than what it's competitors offer in their value menu and is now available in the KING DEALS Menu.

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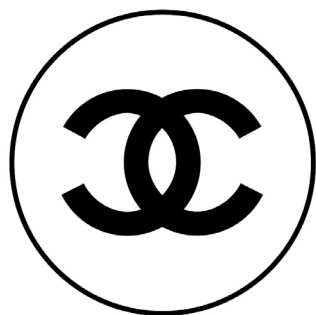
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Representative

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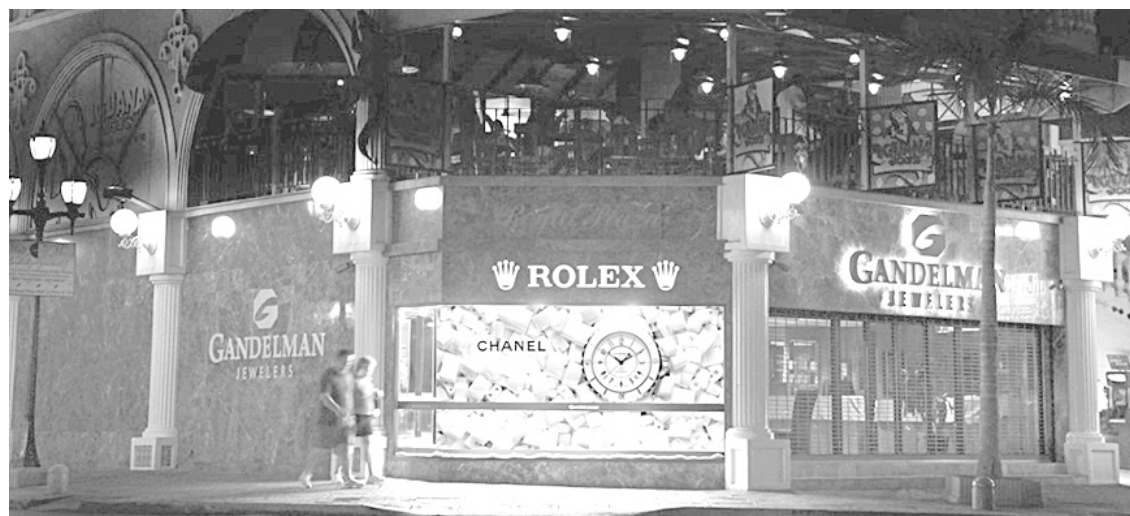
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Gandelman is the official representative of Chanel Watches



ORANJESTAD - It is a well known fact that Gandelman is the exclusive place to find the best watches and jewelry brands from around the globe. Gandelman is proud to announce their newest exclusive brand; Chanel Watches.

Chanel is one of the biggest and most famous brands in the fashion industry. Born around the idea of the great Gabrielle "Coco" Chanel, the brand blossomed in the 1920's and revolutionized the world of "haute couture". By audaciously combining her



ideas and her innate sense of beauty, she created what was to become a unique style.

In 1987, a decade after the passing of Coco Chanel, the brand continued to grow. Chanel launched their first watch; The Première. In the year 2000, Chanel launched the watch that until today is their best-seller; The J-12.

The letter and number combination of J-12 refers to the nautical terminology of the

J-class category, where the boats have to be bigger than 12 meters. A first in many, the J-12 is Chanel's first sports watch, first automatic watch and also their first unisex watch. The J-12 design is the perfect balance between classic design and the latest high-tech materials such as ceramic.

The watches are only available in black and white, which is a traditional trademark of Chanel. Today's

collections continually renew the innovative spirit, playing pertinently and creatively with the brand's bold and timeless symbols.

Chanel watches are flexible, transformable, pure and contemporary, which reflects the image of a multi-faceted woman who resembles no other.

Gandelman invites you to pass by the Royal Plaza store and view the exclusive collection of Chanel watches. □



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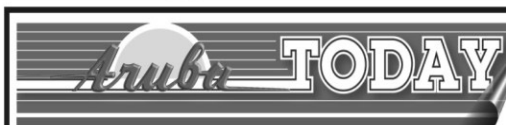
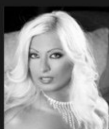
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Times Square bomb: Will Congress finally fix homeland security oversight?

By Jena Baker McNeill

Washington – A bomb in Times Square? Terrorists trying to kill us?

That isn't news. In fact, there have been at least 30 known terrorist plots against the United States since 9/11. New York City has been a target eight of those times.

So if terrorists keep trying to attack us, why is Congress still operating the same way it did on Sept. 10, 2001?

One of the 41 key recommendations of the 9/11 commission was to streamline congressional oversight of homeland security. The commission recognized that too many layers of bureaucracy in the halls of Congress would impede the development of smart security policies.

You would think Congress would embrace such a simple task wholeheartedly. In fact, many members have spoken out about the need to reform the oversight system. Both Democrats and Republicans have pushed for change. Everyone seems to know it's a problem, but neither party's leadership has taken any steps to solve it. In fact, instead of decreasing the number of committees, subcommittees, and commissions with these powers, the number has actually increased to 108 entities with oversight over the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

Department officials, frustrated with the process, have often complained about the oversight structure in terms of workload, emphasizing the number of hours spent responding to congressional inquiries, phone calls, and e-mails – hours they say could be spent making DHS a better department.

While this is certainly a valid criticism, the problem is much bigger. The chaotic oversight structure has lead to conflicting priorities – with one committee telling DHS to go in one direction, and another committee recommending an entirely different course. For example, when it comes to whether the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) should be within the Department of Homeland Security or be elevated to a cabinet-level agency, the House Homeland Security Committee has supported keeping FEMA in the department, while House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee has pushed for it to be taken out. Such turmoil affects the morale of the department. But it also diminishes the likelihood that truly necessary reforms at DHS will receive enough attention.

What's worse is that the competition among these many committees, subcommittees, and commissions has produced "overkill" legislation that meets political needs but doesn't make Americans safer. Some of these bills have become law, and DHS is now required to execute them. □

BEN SARGENT
 Artist: American Illustration
 Editorial: Chuck



In GOP Races, It's NRSC Against Sen. DeMint

Mike Memoli

Jim DeMint is running for a second term this year representing South Carolina in the United States Senate. But his focus seems to be elsewhere, as the conservative senator campaigns not for himself, but for a handful of Republican candidates running in many cases against the hand-picked choice of his national party.

On Tuesday, the National Republican Senatorial Committee got its man in Indiana, as former Sen. Dan Coats won the Republican primary. Finishing a strong second was Marlin Stutzman, a state senator endorsed by DeMint. "This was his first statewide race and he was opposed by the Washington establishment. Yet he exceeded all expectations with an unwavering commitment to conservative principles," DeMint said in a statement after the votes were counted.

Undeterred by the loss, DeMint made an even bigger play Wednesday. His Senate Conservatives Fund weighed in to an even more high profile race, picking ophthalmologist Rand Paul in the Kentucky Senate race rather than Secretary of State Trey Grayson, endorsed just the day before by Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell.

It was a surprising move since just days earlier DeMint had signaled he wasn't interested in weighing in, saying he didn't want to antagonize his party's leader. That changed when McConnell made his support public.

"He's not a career politician and he's got the guts to stand up to the massive spending,

bailouts, and debt that are being forced on us in Washington," DeMint said in announcing his backing. "Senator McConnell and I are on different sides in this race but I support him as our leader."

Though the NRSC won Tuesday, DeMint can argue he already had a victory of his own. DeMint was one of the first party leaders outside of Florida to endorse Marco Rubio over Charlie Crist in the Senate primary there. Only months later, when Rubio reversed a 30-point deficit did other Republicans join him in forcing Crist to abandon the race and run as an independent.

DeMint's Senate Conservatives Fund has endorsed four other candidates with contested GOP primaries, but only two of them are at odds with the national party. In Colorado, he's backing Weld County District Attorney Ken Buck instead of former Lt. Gov. Jane Norton. In California, he's endorsed Assemblyman Chuck DeVore, instead of former Rep. Tom Campbell or former HP CEO Carly Fiorina. His support is likely more likely to affect the result in Colorado.

DeMint can afford to play in these other races given that he faces only token opposition back home. Elected in 2004 in a contentious race against then-Education Superintendent Inez Tenenbaum, DeMint has since notched a reliably conservative record in the deeply red state. This election is his last for the Senate, since he's pledged to only serve two terms. But his advocacy for candidates outside the Palmetto State has some convinced his electoral career is not nearly through. □

Mercados América Latina se derrumban por golpe euro

MEXICO DF (Reuters) - Las monedas y bolsas de América Latina sufrieron el jueves un estrepitoso derrumbe ante una venta generalizada de activos en los mercados del mundo, en medio de un creciente temor al contagio de la crisis de deuda de Grecia a otros países de la zona euro.

El Banco Central Europeo (BCE) mantuvo las tasas de interés en un mínimo histórico del 1,0 por ciento, tal como se esperaba. Sin embargo, decepcionó a los mercados al no presentar ninguna nueva medida para paliar la crisis griega.

El real brasileño se hundió más del 5,0 por ciento frente al dólar, antes de cerrar con una baja del 2,95 por ciento, mientras que el peso mexicano, otro de los activos favoritos entre los inversores, caía más de un 2,3 por ciento.

“Esto se ve trágico”, dijo Alonso Madero, administrador de fondos de la firma mexicana Actinver, cuya cartera asciende

a 64.000 millones de pesos.

El BCE precisó que no había considerado la compra de deuda para frenar la caída del euro, lo que hundió a la moneda única frente al dólar y arrastró consigo a las divisas y a los mercados bursátiles de la región.

“Fue la gota que derramó el vaso (...) el mercado lo interpretó como que ‘estos señores no están haciendo su trabajo’ y no están mandando una señal clara de que van a hacer todo lo posible para evitar un colapso”, agregó Madero.

Según analistas, pese a la incertidumbre que rodea a los activos de América Latina, éstos lucen sólidos en base a los buenos fundamentos de sus economías y la ausencia de canales de contagio directo de la crisis en Europa.

“Es necesaria la cautela en la toma de decisiones, pese a que las condiciones actuales de la economía brasileña deben seguir impidiendo un



Foto de archivo de un operador en la rueda de la Bolsa de Valores de Sao Paulo, Brasil, dic 2 2008. Las monedas y bolsas de América Latina sufrieron el jueves un estrepitoso derrumbe ante una venta generalizada de activos en los mercados del mundo, en medio de un creciente temor al contagio de la crisis de deuda de Grecia a otros países de la zona euro. REUTERS/Paulo Whitaker

deterioro muy acentuado de los precios de los activos del país”, dijo en un informe Miriam Tavares, directora de cambio de la correduría paulista AGK.4.

No obstante, resulta muy difícil determinar hasta cuándo seguirán siendo afectados por la elevada volatilidad, comentó.

El peso colombiano cayó un 1,05 por ciento a 2.018 unidades por dólar, al tiempo que el índice accionario IGBC retrocedió un 2,84 por ciento a 11.969,15 unidades.

“Las monedas de países emergentes se devalúan fuertemente de la mano de una mayor aversión al riesgo. Por lo tanto, se espera que el dólar se mantenga por encima de los 2.000 pesos”, indicó una nota de la firma Ultrabursátiles en Bogotá.

Las bolsa argentina también sufrió un profundo revés del 5,41 por ciento, mientras que sus pares de México y Brasil registraron sesiones volátiles con caídas del 1,86 por ciento y del 2,31 por ciento, respectivamente. □

OEA enviará 40 observadores a elecciones dominicanas

SANTO DOMINGO (AP) - La Organización de Estados Americanos (OEA) comenzará este fin de semana la observación del proceso electoral que celebrará República Dominicana el 16 de mayo para renovar el Congreso y las alcaldías, informaron el jueves las autoridades.

El presidente de la Junta Central Electoral (JCE) Julio César Castaños tiene previsto reunirse el jueves con los primeros delegados de la OEA que llegarán al país, encabezados por Aníbal Quiñones. Castaños anunció que la misión de la OEA, cuyo trabajo comenzará oficialmente el sábado, estará conformada por 40 delegados de 20 países.

El presidente de la Cámara Administrativa de la JCE, Roberto Rosario, garantizó la transparencia del proceso para el que cerca de cinco millones de dominicanos están convocados para elegir 32 senadores, 178 diputados, 20 diputados al Parlamento Centroamericano y a las autoridades de las 155 alcaldías para un periodo especial de seis años. □

EEUU renueva alerta de viajes a México

WASHINGTON (AP) - El gobierno estadounidense advirtió el jueves a sus ciudadanos sobre los riesgos de viajar a varias regiones del territorio mexicano.

La advertencia de viaje emitida por el Departamento de Estado, exhorta a los estadounidenses a posponer los viajes prescindibles a las ciudades de Ciudad Juárez, en el estado norteño de Chihuahua; Guadalupe Bravo, en el noroeste de ese mismo estado, y a Culiacán, capital estatal de Sinaloa, en la parte noroccidental del país.

También los invita a mantener una cautela extrema en el estado centro-occidental de Michoacán, especialmente en las zonas no turísticas; y en la zona noroeste del estado sureño de Guerrero. El documento llama a evitar a toda costa la carretera que comunica Ciudad Altamirano con el complejo turístico Ixtapa-Zihuatanejo en la costa de Guerrero.

“El crimen y la violencia son problemas serios. Si bien la mayoría de las víctimas de la violencia son ciudadanos mexicanos relacionados a la actividad criminal, la situación de seguridad también presenta graves riesgos para los ciudadanos estadounidenses”, señala. La

advertencia subraya la importancia de viajar solamente durante el día y por las carreteras pagas, llamadas de cuota. Y menciona que los empleados de la embajada estadounidense tienen prohibido tomar taxis en las calles de Ciudad de México, para prevenir los asaltos. El Departamento de Estado extendió además la autorización para el retiro de las familias del personal consular en las ciudades de Tijuana, Nogales, Ciudad Juárez, Nuevo Laredo, Monterrey y Matamoros, todas en el norte de México. La admonición estadounidense más reciente sobre la inseguridad en México había sido emitida el 12 de abril, días después de que una granada estalló en el consulado estadounidense en Nuevo Laredo.

La violencia del crimen organizado ha dejado al menos 22.700 muertos desde que el presidente mexicano Felipe Calderón lanzó una ofensiva contra los carteles en diciembre del 2006. El mes pasado, la secretaria de Estado, Hillary Clinton, encabezó una misión estadounidense de alto nivel que viajó a México, días después de que una empleada del consulado de Estados Unidos en Ciudad Juárez, su marido _ambos estadounidenses □



9th of May

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Breakfast \$15,- per person

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Coffee or tea;

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Gazpacho, chilled Spanish tomato soup...

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